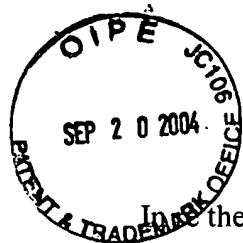


IFW



Application No.: 10/715,066

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

PENG LEE and KEVIN SEDDON

Serial No.: 10/708,571

Filed: March 11, 2004

For: NONDESTRUCTIVE RESIDENTIAL  
INSPECTION METHOD AND  
APPARATUS

Attorney Docket No.: 026018.50271

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop: DD  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The following documents for the above-captioned application are enclosed herewith:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Information Disclosure Citation (PTO-1449); and
3. Return Postcard.

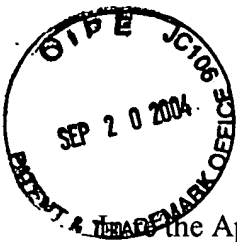
If a fee is due, please debit Deposit Account No. 50-0858. In this regard, a duplicate copy of this Transmittal Letter is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully Submitted,

Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens &  
Cannada, PLLC

9-16-04  
Date

By: Susan B. Fentress  
SUSAN B. FENTRESS  
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Memphis, TN 38119  
(901) 680-7319



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Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTS-A820. A copy of each of the references listed on the attached form is submitted herewith.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that it was considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art". If the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law. Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

**Document AA** – US Patent Application No.: 2004/0162710 by Schwartz was filed on February 17, 2004 (based on provisional application no.: 60/447,584 filed on February 14, 2003). This application discloses a system and method for assessing mold growth. A physical analysis is combined with a thermographic analysis to quantify the propensity for mold growth.

**Document BB** – US Patent Application No.: 2003/0230717 by Reilly, et al. discloses an apparatus for testing water-wall tubes in boilers.

**Document CC** – US Patent Application No.: 2001/0001851 by Piety, et al. was published on May 24, 2001 and discloses a database wizard. The maintenance database may include thermography data (FIGS. 23 and 24). This application relates to industrial components.

**Document DD** – US Patent No.: 6,751,342 (June 15, 2004) by Shepard discloses a system for generating thermographic images using thermographic reconstruction.

**Document EE** – US Patent No.: 6,714,017 (March 30, 2004) by Enachescu, et al. discloses a method and system for infrared detection of electrical short defects in a thin ray cathode tube. In this method, the electrical system is electrically stimulated prior to infrared mapping.

**Document FF** – US Patent No.: 6,516,084 by Shepard discloses temporary noise reduction, compression and analysis of thermographic image data.

**Document GG** – US Patent No.: 6,192,325 by Piety, et al. discloses that the video data collector can interface with a base static computer.

**Document HH** – US Patent No.: 6,028,625 (February 22, 2000) by Cannon discloses an examination system for architectural structures. See column 2, ll. 46-65.

**Document II** – US Patent No.: 5,834,661 by Nonaka, et al. discloses methods of detecting defects in materials using infrared thermography.

**Document JJ** – US Patent No.: 5,742,335 by Cannon discloses an examination system for architectural structures.

**Document KK** – US Patent No.: 5,719,395 (February 17, 1998) by Lesniak discloses coating tolerant thermography.

**Document LL** – US Patent No.: 5,637,871 by Piety, et al. discloses a portable digital infrared thermography system. The thermal imaging camera is coupled to a video camera. Various carrying devices for hands-free operation such as, a vest (FIG. 1) and hand-truck (FIG. 3), are disclosed. A video data collector can be used to interface with a base station computer.

**Document MM** – US Patent No.: 5,631,465 (May 20, 1997) by Shepard discloses method of interpreting thermographic data for non-destructive evaluation. An object is heated and infrared pictures are taken of the object as it cools to identify subsurface irregularities.

**Document NN** – US Patent No.: 5,444,241 (August 22, 1995) by Del Grande, et al. discloses emissivity corrected infrared method for imaging structural heat flow.

**Document OO** – US Patent No.: 4,768,158 (August 30, 1988) by Osanai discloses an apparatus and method to detect smokestack deterioration.

**Document PP** – US Patent No.: 4,647,220 (March 3, 1987) by Adams, et al. discloses a method and apparatus for non-destructive identification of subcoating corrosion.

**Document QQ** – US Patent No.: 4,550,376 (October 29, 1985) by Maciejczak discloses an inspection system for mechanical structures. More specifically, this invention provides an unmanned platform to carry instruments for an inspection of mechanical structure.

**Document RR** – US Patent No.: 3,791,097 (February 12, 1974) to Cassella, et al. discloses a method of detecting and repairing a structural roof damaged by subsurface moisture using an infrared scan from a range of about 300 feet to 1500 feet using a helicopter or an airplane.

**Document SS** – Thermal inspection services (<http://www.thermalinspections.com>) offers residential and new home inspections using infrared imaging. The specific methods used are not disclosed.

**Document TT** – Infrared Building Science is a brochure on thermographic inspection

techniques. The specific methods are not disclosed.

**Document UU** – SBA Thermographics is a brochure offering thermal imaging services for a variety of end uses. The specific methods are not disclosed.

**Document VV** – Infrared Thermography (<http://www.maverickinspection.com/inelectapp.html>) discloses indoor applications for infrared scans. These are industrial applications with various loads.

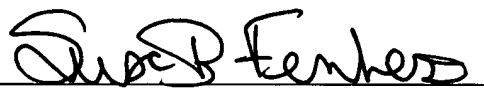
**Document WW** – Infrared Thermography (<http://www.maverickinspections.com>) discloses using infrared technology for building applications.

In the event the Examiner has any questions regarding this document, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens &  
Cannada, PLLC

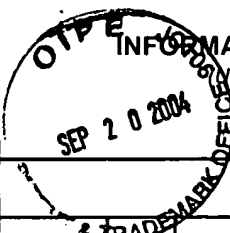
9-16-04  
Date

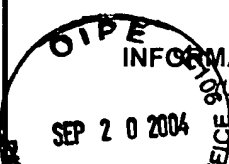
By:   
SUSAN B. FENTRESS  
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6075 Poplar Avenue, Suite 500  
Memphis, TN 38119  
(901) 680-7319

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, on \_\_\_\_\_ in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: DD, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 2231 3-1450.

\_\_\_\_\_  
LORI L. WOOD

 <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>026018.50271</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>10/708,571</b>		
				APPLICANT(S) <b>Peng Lee and Kevin Seddon</b>				
				FILING DATE <b>March 11, 2004</b>		GROUP ART UNIT <b>2859</b>		
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>								
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	DD	6,751,342	06/15/04	Shepard	382/141	250/332	04/15/02	
	EE	6,714,017	03/30/04	Enachescu, et al.	324/501	324/770	11/30/00	
	FF	6,516,084	02/04/03	Shepard	382/141	250/332	12/04/00	
	GG	6,192,325	02/20/01	Piety, et al.	702/184	702/183	09/15/98	
	HH	6,028,625	02/22/00	Cannon	348/135	348/164	12/12/97	
<b>U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS</b>								
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	AA	20040162710	08/19/04	Lawrence Schwartz	703/2		02/17/04	
	BB	20030230717	12/18/03	Reilly, et al.	250/341.6		04/10/03	
	CC	20010001851	05/24/01	Piety, et al.	702/184	702/181	01/02/01	
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>								
		SS	Thermal Inspection Services "Residential Inspections" "New Home Inspections"					
		TT	Infrared Training Center "Infrared Building Science"					
<b>EXAMINER</b>				<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>				
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.								

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)</p> </div>	ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>026018.50271</b>	APPLICATION NO. <b>10/708,571</b>
	<b>Peng Lee and Kevin Seddon</b>	
	FILING <b>March 11, 2004</b>	GROUP ART <b>2859</b>

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
II	5,834,661	11/10/98	Nonaka, et al.	073/866	374/5	11/12/96
JJ	5,742,335	04/21/98	Cannon	348/135	348/82	07/19/95
KK	5,719,395	02/17/98	Lesniak	250/330	250/341.6	09/12/96
LL	5,637,871	06/10/97	Piety, et al.	250/330	250/358.1	06/07/95
MM	5,631,465	05/20/97	Shepard	250/330	250/358.1	02/29/96

**U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**


		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		UU	Infrared Thermography "SBA Thermographics" July 21, 2001
		VV	Maverick "Infrared Thermography: Indoor Electrical Applications"

<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
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	<b>Peng Lee and Kevin Seddon</b>	
	FILING <b>March 11, 2004</b>	GROUP ART <b>2859</b>

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	NN	5,444,241	08/22/95	Del Grande, et al.	250/253	250/339.06	10/01/93
	OO	4,768,158	08/30/88	Osanai	364/507	364/557	01/23/87
	PP	4,647,220	03/03/87	Adams, et al.	374/5	374/57	07/09/84
	QQ	4,550,376	10/29/85	Maciejczak	364/512	358/100	02/14/83
	RR	3,791,097	02/12/74	Cassella, et al.	52/741	52/514	01/19/73

**U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		WW	Maverick "Infrared Thermography: Building Applications"

<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
-----------------	------------------------

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